

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust heat exchanger ~~[[, in particular for]]~~ suitable for use in a motor vehicle ~~[[s]]~~ having an exhaust gas recirculation system, (AGR), ~~composed of comprising:~~

an external housing jacket for a coolant; ~~[[,]]~~ and of

a ~~[[nest]]~~ plurality of pipes through which exhaust gas flows and around which coolant flows and which ~~[[is]]~~ are held in the housing jacket by pipe plates; ~~[[,]]~~

wherein the housing jacket and the pipe plates form an enclosed structure that houses the plurality of pipes and contains the coolant flow; and

wherein a sliding fit is arranged on one surface of the external housing jacket; and

wherein the sliding fit comprises a sliding seal for preventing the coolant or the exhaust gas from flowing through the sliding fit.

~~the nest of pipes, the pipe plates and the housing forming an enclosed force flux, characterized in that a sliding fit (5, 31, 3; 42) is arranged in the force flux.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the sliding fit (5) is arranged between a first part and a second part of~~ ~~[[in]]~~ the housing jacket ~~(2)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the sliding fit (31/32, 42) is arranged between a~~ first one of the pipe plates (24, 26) and the inside surface of the external housing jacket (21, 21a, 21b).

4. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~characterized in that the housing jacket (2) is divided transversely with respect to the direction of the~~ force flux-coolant flow and has ~~[[an]]~~ a first end region (2a, 10) with a relatively large cross section and ~~[[an]]~~ a second end region (2b, 11) with a relatively small cross section, said

end regions overlapping in the direction of the ~~force flux coolant flow~~ and being guided and sealed so as to slide one in the other.

5. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a plastic layer (14) is arranged as a sliding layer between the end regions (10, 11).

6. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that the sliding seal sealing means (15) are~~ is arranged between the end regions (10, 11).

7. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 6, wherein ~~characterized in that the sliding seal comprises at least one O-ring sealing means are~~ embodied as O rings (15).

8. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim [[4]] 6, wherein ~~characterized in that the end regions (2a, 2b) are formed by further comprise~~ an outer annular piece ring (10) and an inner annular piece ring (11) whose wall thickness is greater than that of the housing jacket (2).

9. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim [[5,]] 8, further comprising ~~characterized in that the~~ a plastic layer (14) is applied to the outer annular piece ring (10) in a securely adhering fashion, and in that the inner annular piece ring (11) has a metallic smooth surface and forms a sliding fit (13) with the plastic layer (14).

10. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that the outer annular piece ring (10) and the inner annular piece ring (11) are~~ bonded onto the housing jacket ~~part (2a, 2b)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim [[8,]] 9, wherein ~~characterized in that the outer annular piece ring (10), the inner annular piece ring (11), the plastic layer (14) and the at least one O-ring O rings (15) are~~ embodied as a prefabricated sliding fit (5) which is finally connected to the end regions of the housing part (2a, 2b).

12. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the sliding fit is formed by a sliding surface (31) on the first pipe plate and a sliding surface (32) on the housing, ~~which wherein the~~ sliding surfaces (31, 32) are sealed by means of at least one O-ring ~~O-ring s (29, 30)~~ between ~~the a~~ coolant side (22) and an exhaust gas side of the heat exchanger (23).

13. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 12, further comprising ~~characterized in that~~ a drainage pathway (33; 45, 47) that is arranged between two O rings and that is vented to the atmosphere (29, 30; 43, 44).

14. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the drainage pathway comprises ~~is embodied as~~ a circumferential slit (33) which separates the housing jacket (21) into two housing parts (21a, 21b), and ~~in that wherein~~ the housing parts (21a, 21b) are held spaced apart from one another by means of at least one spacer sleeve [[s (34)]].

15. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the housing parts (21a, 21b) have attachment eyelets (35) which are distributed over the circumference in the region of the slit (33) and between which the at least one spacer sleeve [[s (34) are]] is arranged.

16. (Currently Amended) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the drainage pathway comprises ~~is embodied as~~ an annular groove (45) in the housing (41), ~~which wherein the~~ annular groove (45) is connected to the atmosphere via at least one drainage opening (47).

17. (New) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 16, wherein the housing comprises a single piece construction.

18. (New) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat exchanger is made of metal parts.

19. (New) The exhaust heat exchanger as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first and second end regions have an irregular external cross-sectional shape and wherein the inner and

outer annular pieces have a regular outer and inner respectively external cross-sectional shape that is different from the cross-sectional shape of the first and second end regions.

20. (New) A vehicle exhaust gas recirculation system, comprising a heat exchanger for cooling the exhaust gas, wherein the exhaust heat exchanger comprises a heat exchanger as claimed in claim 1.

21. (New) A vehicle having an internal combustion engine and an exhaust gas recirculation system for said engine, wherein the exhaust gas recirculation system comprises a system as claimed in claim 20.

22. (New) A method for forming a heat exchanger as defined by claim 8,

providing a first housing part and a second housing part, for assembly to form the external housing jacket, wherein the first housing part has a first end region with a relatively large cross section and the second housing part has a second end region with a relatively small cross section, and wherein said end regions are adapted to overlap in the direction of the coolant flow and to slide one in the other when assembled;

providing a pre-assembled unit comprised of the outer annular piece, the inner annular piece, the plastic layer and the sliding seal member comprising at least one O-ring, wherein the inner annular piece is inserted in sliding arrangement inside of the outer annular piece, and the plastic layer and sliding seal member are positioned between the two annular pieces in the sliding arrangement; and

assembling the external housing jacket by attaching the first housing part to the outer annular piece and attaching the second housing part to the inner annular piece.